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United Nations reform: measures and proposals

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

I. Introduction

1. The present revised estimates are presented to give effect to the undertaking provided by the Secretary-General in his letter of 24 October 1997 to the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/52/521). Accordingly, the revised estimates provided in the report of the Secretary-General of 11 September 1997 (A/52/303) in respect of section 1B, General Assembly affairs and conference services, and 2A, Political affairs, are modified to take into account a redeployment of resources so as to facilitate the establishment of a discrete Decolonization Unit within the Department of Political Affairs. Related revised resource requirements by object of expenditure and posts are outlined in the following paragraphs. Should the General Assembly approve the proposals, the provisions shown in the tables that follow regarding sections 1B and 2A would supersede the respective tables presented in the main report. Chapter III below summarizes the overall change in requirements for sections 1B, 2A, 32 and income section 1.

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II. Revised estimates by section

Section 1B
General Assembly affairs and conference services

Table 1B.1 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*1998-1999 initial proposal*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 revised estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	—	—	344 092.1	—	344 092.1	9 580.5	353 672.6
Other staff costs	—	—	43 812.0	—	43 812.0	1 543.3	45 355.3
Travel	—	—	579.0	—	579.0	31.8	610.8
Contractual services	—	—	9 050.8	—	9 050.8	372.5	9 423.3
General operating expenses	—	—	4 773.5	—	4 773.5	154.5	4 928.0
Hospitality	—	—	14.5	—	14.5	0.9	15.4
Supplies and materials	—	—	8 819.1	—	8 819.2	339.7	9 158.9
Furniture and equipment	—	—	2 103.5	—	2 103.5	25.0	2 128.5
Grants and contributions	—	—	31 900.6	—	31 900.6	539.4	32 440.0
Total	**—**	**—**	**445 145.1**	**—**	**445 145.2**	**12 587.6**	**457 732.8**

Table 1B.2 **Post requirements**

	1996-1997 approved	*1998-1999 initial proposal*	*1998-1999 proposed revised staffing*
Professional category and above			
USG	—	—	1
ASG	—	—	1
D-2	—	—	4
D-1	—	—	20
P-5	—	—	154
P-4/3	—	—	695
P-2/1	—	—	35
Total	**—**	**—**	**910**
General Service category			
Principal level	—	—	82
Other levels	—	—	788
Total	**—**	**—**	**870**
Other categories			
Trades and Crafts	—	—	86
Total	**—**	**—**	**86**
Grand total	**—**	**—**	**1 866**

1B.1 In the report of the Secretary-General of 11 September 1997 (A/52/303), it was proposed to transfer all resources for the decolonization subprogramme to the new Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services (sect. 1B).

1B.2 In order to give effect to the decision of the Secretary-General in his letter of 24 October 1997 to the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/52/521), one D-1 and one General Service (Other level) post proposed for transfer to section 1B would remain in section 2A, Political affairs.

1B.3 The remaining posts proposed for transfer from section 2A for the decolonization programmes (one P-5, one P-3 and two General Service (Other level posts)) would be responsible for the technical aspects of servicing meetings of the Trusteeship Council, the Fourth Committee of the General Assembly and the Special Committee.

1B.4 This would result in a reduction in resource requirements under section 1B of $383,200, which would offset an increase in the same amount under section 2A.

1B.5 It was also proposed in the Secretary-General's report (para. 1B.11) that the post of Executive Officer of the new Department be at the D-1 level, to be provided through the exchange of the current P-5 post with a D-1 post in the General Assembly Subsidiary Organs Servicing Branch.

1B.6 In view of the above proposal, a D-1 post would no longer be available for this purpose. Therefore, in order to provide a post at the D-1 level for the Executive Officer it is proposed to reclassify the existing P-5 post to D-1. This would entail additional requirements of $19,500.

1B.7 Consequently, there would be a net reduction of $363,700 under section 1B, which would be offset in part by an increase under section 2A.

Section 2A
Political affairs

Table 2A.1 **Summary by object of expenditure**
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Object of expenditure	*1996-1997 appropriations*	*1998-1999 initial proposal*	*Resource growth*		*Total before recosting*	*Recosting*	*1998-1999 revised estimates*
			Amount	*Percentage*			
Posts	48 212.3	47 312.6	(12 693.3)	(26.8)	34 619.0	2 227.7	36 846.7
Other staff costs	2 296.3	1 565.9	(816.7)	(52.1)	749.2	45.2	794.4
Consultants and experts	1 433.8	1 501.1	(1 386.3)	(92.3)	114.8	7.0	121.8
Travel	2 624.6	2 840.7	(844.4)	(29.7)	1 996.3	119.8	2 116.1
Contractual services	973.5	629.2	(180.0)	(28.6)	449.2	26.6	475.8
General operating expenses	1 509.8	1 404.2	(251.7)	(17.9)	1 152.5	69.3	1 221.8
Hospitality	80.9	85.8	(22.8)	(26.5)	63.0	3.7	66.7
Supplies and materials	181.7	190.2	(48.5)	(25.4)	141.7	8.3	150.0
Furniture and equipment	923.1	635.6	(167.5)	(26.3)	468.1	28.0	496.1
Grants and contributions	1 443.7	1 376.0	(1 376.0)	(100.0)	—	—	—
Total	**59 679.7**	**57 541.3**	**(17 787.2)**	**(30.9)**	**39 753.8**	**2 535.6**	**42 289.4**

Table 2A.2 **Post requirements**

	1996-1997 approved	*1998-1999 initial proposal*	*1998-1999 proposed revised staffing*
Professional category and above			
USG	1	1	1
ASG	2	2	2
D-2	10	8	6
D-1	18	18	14
P-5	41	35	26
P-4/3	70	69	51
P-2/1	13	13	9
Total	**155**	**146**	**109**
General Service category			
Principal level	12	11	6
Other levels	114	106	79
Total	**126**	**117**	**85**
Other categories			
Local level	—	1	1
Total	**—**	**1**	**1**
Grand total	**281**	**264**	**195**

2A.1 In response to the views expressed by a number of delegations at several meetings, the Secretary-General in a letter of 24 October 1997 to the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (A/52/521) informed him of his decision to maintain the substantive responsibilities for the decolonization programme in the Department of Political Affairs. Accordingly, the revised proposals under this section reflect changes to provide for the discrete Decolonization Unit referred to in the Secretary-General's letter, which would provide substantive services to the Special Committee. The substantive services to be carried out by the Department of Political Affairs would include:

(a) Preparation of working papers on the political/constitutional/military, economic, social and educational conditions in the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories (some on the basis of information forwarded by the Administering Powers to the Secretary-General under Article 73 *e* of the Charter);

(b) Preparation of briefing and background notes for the Secretary-General;

(c) Attendance at meetings with permanent representatives, foreign ministers and heads of State on matters concerning the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(d) Drafting of speeches for the Secretary-General;

(e) Responding to substantive questions from the Special Committee on individual territories;

(f) Providing guidance and political input to regional seminars;

(g) Attendance at seminars to maintain substantive contacts with representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories and other regional representatives;

(h) Providing political guidance as required to petitioners;

(i) Preparation of working papers on the 17 Non-Self-Governing Territories, through the focal point, the Decolonization Unit;

(j) Initiating or participating in contacts with the Administering Powers.

2A.2 Activities under subprogramme 6, Decolonization, of programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 (A/51/6/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Corr.1), in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 will accordingly be shared between the newly created Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services under section 1B, which would carry out technical secretariat servicing, and the Department of Political Affairs, providing substantive servicing. Responsibility for all meeting servicing of the Special Committee would, as reported in the report of the Secretary-General of 11 September 1997 (A/52/303), rest with the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services.

2A.3 The staff resources of the Decolonization Unit would consist of one D-1, one P-3 and two General Service (Other level) posts. It is proposed that these post requirements be met by retention of one D-1 and one General Service (Other level) post within the Department of Political Affairs previously proposed for transfer to the newly created Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services in the Secretary-General's report. Other staff resources of the Unit, consisting of one P-3 and one General Services (Other level) post, would be redeployed internally from the resources proposed for subprogrammes 1 and 2 of programme 1, under section 2, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan.

2A.4 The proposed changes represent an increase in the 1998-1999 proposed revised staffing (table 2A.2) by two posts as compared with the requirements shown in the Secretary-General's report. The related cost of $383,200 would be offset by a reduction under section 1B.

III. Summary

2. The redeployment of resources between sections and the related proposal for the reclassification of one post from P-5 to D-1 would result in the following overall changes in resources requirements.

Section	*At 1996-1997 rates*	*At 1998-1999 rates*
	(Thousands of United States dollars)	
1B as proposed in A/52/303	445 508.9	458 119.6
Change in 1B	(363.7)	(386.8)
Modified 1B now proposed	445 145.2	457 732.8
2A as proposed in A/52/303	39 370.6	41 882.1
Change in 2A	383.2	407.3
Modified 2A now proposed	39 753.8	42 289.4
32 as proposed in A/52/303	325 327.2	321 804.3
Change in 32	8.5	9.2
Modified now proposed	325 335.7	321 813.5

The additional requirement of $8,500 in expenditure section 32 would be offset by an equal increase in the estimates for income section 1, which would change from $325,327,200 to $325,335,700.

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